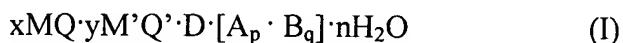


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pyrrhithione complex compound represented by the formula (I):



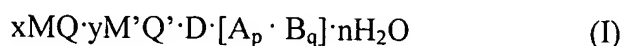
wherein M represents a divalent metal, M' represents a trivalent metal, Q represents one oxygen atom or two hydroxyl groups, Q' represents 3/2 oxygen atoms or 3 hydroxyl groups, x, y, p, q and n respectively denote 0 or a positive number satisfying the following equations: $0 \leq x \leq 7$, $0 \leq y \leq 6$, $0 \leq p + 2q < 6/5$ and $0 \leq n \leq 7$, (provided that x and y are not 0 at the same time), D represents $M(Py)_{2-p-2q}$ when $x \neq 0$ and $M'(Py)_{3-3p/2-3q}$ when $x = 0$, Py represents 2-pyridylthio-N-oxide, A represents a monovalent anion other than Py or ~~shows that it does not exist~~ and B represents a divalent anion or ~~shows that it does not exist~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 1, wherein, in the formula (I), M is at least one divalent metal selected from Zn and Cu, M' is Al, A is a monovalent anion selected from Cl and NO₃ or ~~shows that it does not exist~~, B is at least one divalent anion selected from CO₃ and SO₄ or ~~shows that it does not exist~~ and x, y, p, q, n, Q, Q' and D are as defined in Claim 1 ~~respectively have the same meaning as above~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 1, wherein, in the formula (I), M is zinc, Q is one oxygen atom, D is zinc pyrrhithione, $y = 0$, $p + 2q = 0$, $n = 0$, A and B do not exist and x is 1/3.

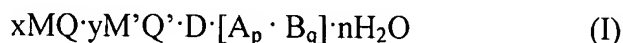
4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 1, wherein, in the formula (I), M is copper, Q is one oxygen atom or two hydroxyl groups, D is copper pyrrhithione, $y = 0$, $p + 2q = 0$, $0 \leq n \leq 1$, A and B do not exist and x is 1/3.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrrhithione complex compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein M represents a divalent metal, M' represents a trivalent metal, Q represents one oxygen atom or two hydroxyl groups, Q' represents 3/2 oxygen atoms or 3 hydroxyl groups, x, y, p, q and n respectively denote 0 or a positive number satisfying the following equations: $0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$, $0 \leq p + 2q < 6/5$ and $0 \leq n \leq 2$, (provided that x and y are not 0 at the same time), D represents $M(Py)_{2-p-2q}$ when $x \neq 0$ and $y = 0$ and $M'(Py)_{3-3p/2-3q}$ when $x = 0$ and $y \neq 0$ where Py represents 2-pyridylthio-N-oxide and A and B do not exist and either x or y is 0, which comprises adding 1/2 to 2 equivalent mol of an aqueous solution of a divalent or trivalent water-soluble metal salt and 3/4 to 3 equivalent mol of an aqueous alkali hydroxide solution to an aqueous alkali pyrrhithione solution and reacting the mixture at a pH of 9 to 12 to collect the precipitates.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrrhithione complex compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein M represents a divalent metal, M' represents a trivalent metal, Q represents one oxygen atom or two hydroxyl groups, Q' represents 3/2 oxygen atoms or 3 hydroxyl groups, x, y, p, q and n respectively denote 0 or a positive number satisfying the following equations: $0 \leq x \leq 7$, $0 \leq y \leq 6$, $0 \leq p + 2q < 6/5$ and $0 \leq n \leq 7$, (provided that x and y are not 0 at the same time), D represents $M(Py)_{2-p-2q}$ when Py represents 2-pyridylthio-N-oxide, A represents a monovalent anion other than Py or ~~shows that it does not exist~~ and B represents a divalent anion or ~~shows that it does not exist~~ and $x \neq 0$ and $y \neq 0$, ~~$y \neq 0$~~ , which comprises adding a water soluble salt of a divalent metal and a water-soluble salt of a trivalent metal to an aqueous solution containing an alkali pyrrhithione, an alkali hydroxide and, according to the need, a monovalent anion other than pyrrhithione and/or a divalent anion, adjusting the mixture to a pH 8 to 10 and collecting the obtained precipitates.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process for producing a pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 6, wherein, in the formula (I), M is Zn, M' is Al, A is at least one monovalent anion selected from Cl and NO₃ or ~~shows that it does not exist~~, B is at least one divalent anion selected from CO₃ and SO₄ or ~~shows that it does not exist~~ and x, y, p, q, n, Q, Q' and D are as defined in Claim 6~~respectively have the same meaning as above~~.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process for producing a pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 5, wherein, in the formula (I), M is zinc, Q is one oxygen atom, D is zinc pyrrhithione, $y = 0$, $p + 2q = 0$, $n = 0$, A and B do not exist and x is 1/3.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process for producing a pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 5, wherein the pyrrhithione complex compound contains zinc oxide or a mixture of zinc oxide and zinc pyrrhithione as a byproduct and the exothermic peak temperature in thermal analysis (DTA) is 322 to 335°C.

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process for producing a pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 5, wherein, in the formula (I), M is copper, Q is one oxygen atom or two hydroxyl groups, D is copper pyrrhithione, $y = 0$, $p + 2q = 0$, $0 \leq n \leq 1$, A and B do not exist and x is 1/3.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process for producing a pyrrhithione complex compound according to Claim 5, wherein the pyrrhithione complex compound contains copper (II) oxide or a mixture of copper (II) oxide and copper pyrrhithione as a byproduct and the exothermic peak temperature in thermal analysis (DTA) is 282 and 294°C.

12. (Previously Presented) An antidandruff agent comprising one or more of the pyrrhithione complex compounds as claimed in Claim 1.

13. (Original) A hair-care product comprising the antidandruff agent as claimed in Claim 12 or the antidandruff agent and zinc oxide.

14. (Previously Presented) An underwater antifouling agent comprising one or more of the pyrithione complex compounds as claimed in Claim 1.

15. (Previously Presented) An underwater antifouling agent comprising a binder, one or more of the pyrithione complex compounds as claimed in Claim 1 and an inorganic copper compound and/or inorganic zinc compound as effective components.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The underwater antifouling agent according to Claim 15, wherein the binder is an acrylic resin, the inorganic copper compound is at least one type selected from copper (I) oxide, copper (II) oxide and copper thiocyanate and the inorganic zinc compound is zinc oxide.

17. (Currently Amended) A rot ~~proofing~~proofing / mildew-proofing agent or an antibacterial/antifungal agent comprising one or more of the pyrithione complex compounds as claimed in Claim 1 as effective components.

18. (Original) An aqueous product comprising the pyrithione complex compound as claimed in Claim 3 or a mixture of the pyrithione compound and zinc oxide and a 2-isothiazolone type preservative.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process for producing a pyrithione complex compound according to Claim 8, wherein the pyrithione complex compound contains zinc oxide or a mixture of zinc oxide and zinc pyrithione as a byproduct and the exothermic peak temperature in thermal analysis (DTA) is 322 to 335°C.

20. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process for producing a pyrrithione complex compound according to Claim 10, wherein the pyrrithione complex compound contains copper (II) oxide or a mixture of copper (II) oxide and copper pyrrithione as a byproduct and the exothermic peak temperature in thermal analysis (DTA) is 282 and 294°C.